

Indiana's Academic Standards Review Summary

People across the state of Indiana had the opportunity to read the proposed standards, complete an online survey, and post additional comments. In early July, teachers were notified of the upcoming review via mail. Superintendents and principals were notified of the review through the Superintendent's Mail for the week of August 3, 2007, and the Indiana's Education Roundtable and the Indiana State Board were also notified at this time. The Indiana Commission for Higher Education notified its members of the opportunity to review the proposed standards and provide input. Press releases were sent to newspapers across the state of Indiana to notify the general public of the opportunity to read and review the proposed standards. In addition to the online review, the proposed social studies standards were reviewed by national reviewers, in-state reviewers, professional organizations, and other Indiana organizations.

National Reviewers: Fordham Foundation, National Association of Economic Educators, National Center for Civic Education, National Council for History Education, and National Geographic Society

Indiana In-state reviewers: Ball State University, Indiana State University, Indiana University (Bloomington), Indiana University (Kokomo), Indiana University-Purdue University (Indianapolis), Indiana University (Southeast), Ivy Tech Community College, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology, and Purdue University

Indiana Organizations and Professional Associations: Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Dawning Horizon Educational Services, Eiteljorg Museum, Geography Educators Network of Indiana, Indiana Council for Economic Education, Indiana Council for the Social Studies, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indiana Historical Society, Indiana Humanities Council, Indiana Manufacturers Association, and Indiana State Museum

K-8 Online Review Summary

The proposed Social Studies K-8 Standards were posted on the Indiana Department of Education's website from August 3rd until August 31st. Citizens from 42 counties completed the online evaluation for the K-8 social studies standards during August 2007.

- Total number of respondents- 154
Elementary teachers- 51 (33%) Middle school/Junior high teachers- 67 (44%)
Post-secondary educators- 13 (8%) Parents/Community members- 13 (8%)

General Reactions

Respondents were asked to reflect on the following statements. Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number.

- The updated Indiana Academic Standards are easy to understand. (154 responses)
Strongly Agree/Agree- 130 (84%) Strongly Disagree/Disagree- 13 (8%)
No Response- 11 (7%)
- The K-8 social studies standards include the core academic knowledge and skills all students should learn. (154 responses)
Strongly Agree/Agree- 83 (54%) Strongly Disagree/Disagree- 37 (24%)
No Response- 34 (22%)

Social Studies Standards

Attachment E

- The K-8 standards are appropriate for the grade level(s) you reviewed. (154 responses)
Strongly Agree/Agree- 84 (55%) Strongly Disagree/Disagree- 45 (29%)
No Response- 25 (16%)
- Please use the following scale to rate the updated Indiana Academic Standards overall.
A- 44 (29%) B- 44 (29%) C- 24 (16%) D- 16 (10%) F- 17 (11%)
No response- 9 (5%)

Additional Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own personal comments regarding the proposed social studies standards. There were 107 comments posted by respondents.

- Concern regarding the elimination of Individuals, Society, and Culture standard (23 responses, 21%).

IDOE Response: While there is no longer a section titled “Individuals, Society, and Culture”, the indicators in this particular standard have been integrated into other content areas at each grade level.

- Concern regarding too much material/not enough time to teach (16 responses, 15%).

IDOE Response: The Indiana Department of Education as well as independent contributors and reviewers have made efforts to make the standards as concise and manageable as possible.

- Statements regarding specific indicators in specific grade levels such as appropriateness, the need for clarification, and recommendations of themes, topics, and examples that should possibly be added or subtracted (46 responses, 43%).

IDOE Response: The Indiana Department of Education reviewed each comment regarding this matter and addressed specific standards and indicators. In some cases, changes were made to indicators in an effort to clarify or add examples that would be considered more helpful to educators.

- Positive feedback indicating that the proposed standards were clear, appropriate, comprehensive and provided good examples for teachers (17 responses, 16%).

High School Online Review Summary

The proposed Social Studies High School Standards were posted on the Indiana Department of Education’s website from August 13th until August 31st. Citizens from 23 counties completed the online evaluation for the high school social studies standards. Four respondents indicated that they read and evaluated the proposed standards for all subject areas. The remaining respondents reviewed and evaluated specific subjects.

- Total number of respondents- 61
High school teachers- 40 (66%) Parents/Community members- 9 (15%)
Post-secondary educators- 2 (3%)

General Reactions

Respondents were asked to reflect on the following statements. Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number.

- The updated Indiana Academic Standards are easy to understand. (61 responses)
Strongly Agree/Agree- 48 (79%) Strongly Disagree/Disagree- 2 (3%)
No Response: 11 (18%)
- The examples, when provided, help illustrate what is meant by the standards.
(61 responses)
Strongly Agree/Agree- 41 (67%) Strongly Disagree/Disagree- 4 (7%)
No Response: 16 (26%)
- The standards represent the academic core that all students should know and be able to do
in K-12 social studies. (61 responses)

Strongly Agree/Agree- 33 (54%) Strongly Disagree/Disagree- 15 (25%)
No Response- 13 (21%)
- Please use the following scale to rate the updated Indiana Academic Standards overall.
A- 12 (20%) B- 21 (34%) C- 4 (7%) D- 8 (13%) F- 3 (5%)
No response- 13 (21%)

Additional Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to provide their own personal comments regarding the updated social studies standards. There were 39 comments posted by respondents.

- Statements regarding specific indicators in specific grade levels such as appropriateness, the need for clarification, and recommendations of subjects, topics, and examples that should possibly be added or subtracted (21 responses, 54%).

IDOE Response: *The Indiana Department of Education reviewed each comment regarding this matter and addressed specific standards and indicators. In some cases, changes were made to indicators in an effort to clarify or add examples that would be considered more helpful to educators*

- Concern regarding too much material/not enough time to teach (8 responses, 21%).

IDOE Response: *The Indiana Department of Education as well as independent contributors and reviewers have made efforts to make the standards as concise and manageable as possible.*

- Positive feedback indicating that the proposed standards were clear, appropriate, comprehensive, and provided good examples for teachers (12 responses, 31%).